

# Christian History Timeline: The Holiness Movement

## Origins

**1836** Sarah Worrall Lankford (Phoebe Palmer's sister) founds the Tuesday Meeting for the Promotion of Holiness in New York City. Charles Finney lectures on holiness in New York City. John Humphrey Noyes founds a perfectionist intentional community at Putney, Vermont—precursor to his controversial Oneida (New York) community.

**1837** Phoebe Worrall Palmer experiences entire sanctification. Timothy Merritt founds the *Guide to Christian Perfection*, later *Guide to Holiness*.

**1843** Orange Scott organizes the Wesleyan Methodist Connection at Utica, New York. Phoebe Palmer publishes *The Way of Holiness*.

**1850** The Five Points Mission is founded in New York City by Phoebe Palmer and other Methodist women.

**1857** Extensive revivals break out in Ontario, Canada as a result of Phoebe Palmer's ministry.

**1858** The Presbyterian W. E. Boardman's fast-selling *Higher Christian Life* popularizes holiness in non-Methodist terms.

**1859** Phoebe Palmer publishes *The Promise of the Father*, a closely argued biblical defense of women in ministry that would influence Catherine Booth, cofounder of the Salvation Army.

**1860** B.T. Roberts and John Wesley Redfield found the Free Methodist Church on ideals of abolition, egalitarianism, and holiness.

## Transatlantic revival

**1867** The first National Holiness Association (NHA) camp meeting is held at Vineland, New Jersey.

**1868** The second NHA camp meeting attracts over 20,000 people to Manheim, Pennsylvania. Many experience it as a powerful "Pentecost."

**1871** The Western Holiness Association—first of the regional associations that prefigured "come-outism"—is formed at Bloomington, Illinois.

**1874** Hannah Whitall Smith and Robert Pearsall Smith speak in England at the ecumenical Broadlands and Oxford meetings in England for the promotion of holiness.

**1875** The first Keswick Convention meets.

**1877** General holiness conventions meet in Cincinnati and New York City.

## Institutionalization

**1878** William and Catherine Booth organize the Salvation Army.

**1881** D. S. Warner starts the Church of God Reformation Movement, later the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana).

**1886** The first Salvation Army home for “fallen women” is founded in New York City.

**1895** First Church of the Nazarene is founded in Los Angeles, California.

**1901** Alma White founds the Pentecostal Union, later Pillar of Fire.

**1906** The Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles marks the beginning of Pentecostalism.

**1907** The Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene is organized in Chicago.

**1908** The Church of the Nazarene is founded.

**1910** The Brethren in Christ adopt a holiness statement on sanctification.

**1923** Methodist college president and holiness preacher Henry Clay Morrison founds Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky.

## Events in American Christianity

**1835** A group of abolitionist students leave Lane Seminary of Cincinnati to join the newly formed Oberlin College, making that school a reform center.

**1844** Methodist Episcopal Church divides into Northern and Southern denominations.

**1852** Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Stowe was sympathetic to the holiness movement and wrote on sanctification.

**1858–59** The Layman's Revival in New York City and other Northeastern urban centers popularizes the “higher Christian life.”

**1866** Frances Willard, who later became president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, professes sanctification under the Palmers.

**1871** D. L. Moody experiences his “endowment of power.” Two years later, he begins his first great U.K. campaign.

**1890** Moody's Chicago Bible Institute building dedicated.

**1939** The Methodist Episcopal Church (North and South) re-unites and re-absorbs an earlier offshoot, the Methodist Protestant Church, to form The Methodist Church.